



Cable Beach community turtle monitoring program FAQ's

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE PROJECT?

To identify the number and species of turtles nesting on Cable Beach.

HOW LONG HAS THE PROJECT BEEN GOING FOR?

The project started in 2006/07 coordinated by Conservation Volunteers Australia. The Department of Parks and Wildlife have now taken the lead on this project with the Yawuru joint management team coordinating its implementation.

WHAT IS TRACK MONITORING?

Track monitoring is non invasive, non destructive and involves staff and volunteers walking a section of the beach early in the morning to find any turtle tracks/ evidence of nests or evidence of hatchlings. Observers then figure out if there has been a nest laid or if it is a 'false crawl' through observation only.

WHAT TURTLES NEST ON CABLE BEACH?

The most abundant species we have nesting on Cable Beach is the Flatback Turtle (*Natator depressus*) but there have also been reports of Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*). Both are threatened species that are listed as vulnerable.

WHEN DOES IT OCCUR?

First thing every morning (weather dependant) over the main nesting period November- March. Participant safety is the most important thing so monitoring will be cancelled for severe weather, cyclones or other safety risks. Participants will also need to do their own risk assessment each morning to make sure their monitoring is safe.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO I NEED TO PARTICIPATE?

Participants don't need any prior experience but before they are given a sector to lead they will need to be trained up to identify the difference between false crawls and nests, or 'tag along' with another more experienced staff member or volunteer. Participants need to be fit and healthy enough to walk up to 5km along the beach. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

There are three sectors of approximately 2km each, each participant (or group) will be assigned one sector and a morning walk up and back may take up to an hour or more depending on your walking speed and the amount of nesting activity.

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING TO A MONITORING SESSION?

Bring along a hat, sunscreen, water and some walking shoes, the rest of the field gear is in the monitoring backpacks

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE INFORMATION?

The data will be uploaded into a Statewide database at the end of the season. A summary report will be provided to volunteers and stakeholders at the completion of the monitoring. This information may then be used by the wider community to inform management or other interested parties.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Either participate in one of the training sessions run at the start of the season (dates TBC) or contact the DPaW office. Volunteers will need to be registered as DPaW volunteers and those joining the program later in the season will be inducted by a staff member and put with a more experienced staff member or volunteer to start with.



Department of
Parks and Wildlife



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Cable Beach turtle monitoring takes place on and adjacent to Yawuru Conservation Estate jointly managed by Yawuru, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Shire of Broome.